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REGION 6 LEPC UPDATE

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EPA Region 6 joins our other federal, state, and local partners in condolence for the families in West, Texas, Houston, and Oklahoma who lost loved ones or their homes in the past several months.

- Steve and Hilary

FEMA Corps: New Program Responds to Disasters in Region 6

Courtesy DHS-FEMA and CNCS Websites, July 2013



On March 13, 2012, the White House announced a new partnership between the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to establish a FEMA-devoted unit of 1,600 service corps members, ages 18-24, within AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), solely devoted to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

This partnership builds on the historic collaboration between the two agencies and strives to enhance the federal government's disaster capabilities, increase the reliability and diversity of the disaster workforce, promote an ethic of service, expand education and economic opportunity for young people, and achieve significant cost savings for the American taxpayer.

When the program is at full operational capability, and in an average disaster year, FEMA expects to see a savings of approximately \$60 million in a year.



FEMA Corps members focus on disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities, providing support in areas ranging from working directly with disaster survivors to supporting disaster recovering centers to sharing valuable disaster preparedness and mitigation information with the public.

FEMA Corps has recently deployed Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams in Region 6 to the West, Texas Fertilizer Explosion and the Oklahoma Severe Storms and Tornadoes events.

Region 6 LEPC Coordinators			
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FEMA Corps in West, Texas

Jamie Flynn, a FEMA Corps member of DSAT Team Alpine 2 recounts his experience in AmeriCorps NCCC official blog.

“As DSAT [Disaster Survivor Assistance Team], our mission is to reach out to the community and help them understand the steps they can take to get back on their feet. This can mean going door to door, attending town hall meetings, and being present at other community gatherings. We are the eyes and ears of the operation, since we are talking with survivors, business, churches, voluntary organizations and community leaders. All the information we pick up is then reported up the FEMA chain so that the issues we come across can be addressed.

Additionally, FEMA recently developed a way to register survivors at their door. Together with the reservists, we ran the pilot program for this method. In my opinion, it worked great. In the past, after a disaster, people had just three ways to register for assistance. They could call 1-800-621-3362, go online at www.disasterassistance.gov, or travel to the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) set up in their area. As you can imagine, people who have just survived a major disaster do not always have access to a phone, an internet connection, or transportation.



But with our iPads, we can bring the DRC to them. In about 20 minutes, we can register the survivor and explain to them the next steps in the process. If we’ve come across someone who already registered, we have the ability to look up their case and inform them of the status.”

To read more of Jamie Flynn’s account of DSAT team Alpine 2’s response efforts, visit the official AmeriCorps NCCC official blog site at <http://ncccblog.americorps.gov/>

To learn more about the FEMA Corps programs, visit:
<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps/>
<http://www.fema.gov/fema-corps>

From EPA's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office: Chemical Accident Prevention Publications

Over the past several years, EPA has developed a series of Chemical Safety Alerts, Chemical Emergency Advisories, Chemical Safety Network papers, and Topical Backgrounders. These guides provide awareness of several possible hazards that the LEPC may need to plan for, as well as share successful practices in implementing preparedness and prevention activities.

The following are links to the guidance documents.

Chemical Safety Alerts

- [Chemical Safety Alert: Emergency Isolation for Hazardous Material Fluid Transfer Systems - Application and Limitations of Excess Flow Valves](#) Revised: June 2007: While excess flow valves (EFV) are in extensive service and have prevented numerous pipe or hose breaks from becoming much more serious incidents, experience has shown that in some cases the EFV did not perform as intended, usually because of misapplication.
- [Chemical Safety Alert: Identifying Chemical Reactivity Hazards Preliminary Screening Method](#) Issued: May 2004: Lack of awareness of the reactive chemical hazards in a facility results in a higher risk of hazardous uncontrolled chemical reactions.
- [Chemical Safety Alert: Hazards of Delayed Coker Unit \(DCU\) Operations](#) Issued: August 2003: The batch portion of DCU operations (drum switching and coke cutting) creates unique hazards, resulting in relatively frequent and serious accidents.
- [Pesticide Alert: Pesticide Safety and Site Security](#) Issued: October 2001: Businesses that manufacture, reformulate, sell, distribute, transport, store, or apply pesticides have long known the importance of risk mitigation steps for the safety of their workers, their customers, and their communities.
- [Chemical Safety Alert: Chemical Accidents from Electric Power Outages](#) Issued: September 2001: Power outages and restarts could potentially trigger a serious chemical accident.
- [Chemical Safety Alert: Hazards of Ammonia Releases at Ammonia Refrigeration Facilities \(Updated\)](#) Issued: August 2001: Releases of ammonia have the potential for harmful effects on workers and the public. If the ammonia is under pressure, risk of exposure increases since larger quantities of the refrigerant have the potential for rapid release into the air.
- [Chemical Safety Alert: Safe Storage and Handling of Swimming Pool Chemicals](#) Issued: March 2001: Pool chemicals may become a hazard when they become wetted by a small quantity of water or when they are improperly mixed, such as with other chemicals or reactive materials.
- [Chemical Safety Alert: Rupture Hazard from Liquid Storage Tanks](#) Issued: September 2009: Over the past few years, there have been several catastrophic failures of liquid fertilizer storage tanks resulting in property and released its contents.
- [Chemical Safety Alert: First Responders' Environmental Liability Due To Mass Decontamination Runoff](#) Issued: July 2000: Environmental liability resulting from critical lifesaving actions may seem unlikely, but could be a serious concern for many first responders.
- [Joint NIOSH/EPA/EOSA Alert: Preventing Worker Injuries and Deaths from Explosions in Industrial Ethylene Oxide Sterilization Facilities](#) Issued: August 2007: Explosions may result from improper venting of ethylene oxide into oxidizing emission control devices
- [Chemical Safety Alert: Anhydrous Ammonia Theft](#) Issued: March 2000: Anhydrous ammonia is a key ingredient in the illegal production of methamphetamines. Illegal drug makers often steal anhydrous ammonia from areas where it is stored and used.
- [Chemical Accident Prevention: Site Security](#) Issued: February 2000: Because of today's increased concern about terrorism and sabotage, companies are also paying increased attention to the physical security of facility sites, chemical storage areas, and chemical processes.
- [Chemical Safety Alert: Use Multiple Data Sources for Safer Emergency Response](#) Issued: June 1999: A critical consideration when choosing a response strategy is the safety of emergency responders. Adequate information about on-site chemicals can make a big difference when choosing a safe response strategy.

- [Chemical Safety Alert: Explosion Hazard From Ammonium Nitrate](#) Issued: December 1997: Although ammonium nitrate generally is used safely and normally is stable and unlikely to explode accidentally, accidental explosions of ammonium nitrate have resulted in loss of lives and destruction of property.
- [Chemical Safety Alert: Shaft Blow-Out Hazard of Check and Butterfly Valves](#) Issued: September 1997: Certain types of check and butterfly valves can undergo shaft-disk separation, and fail catastrophically or “blow-out”, causing toxic and/or flammable gas releases, fires, and vapor cloud explosions.
- [Chemical Safety Alert: Rupture Hazard of Pressure Vessels](#) Issued: May 1997: Improperly operated or maintained pressure vessels can fail catastrophically, kill and injure workers and others, and cause extensive damage even if the contents are benign.
- [Chemical Safety Alert: Lightning Hazard to Facilities Handling Flammable Substances](#) Issued: May 1997: Lightning strikes that hit equipment and storage or process vessels containing flammable materials can cause devastating accidents at refineries, bulk plants, processing sites, and other facilities.
- [Chemical Safety Alert: Catastrophic Failure of Storage Tanks](#) Issued: May 1997: Catastrophic failures of aboveground, atmospheric storage tanks can occur when flammable vapors in the tank explode and break either the shell-to-bottom or side seam.
- [Chemical Safety Alert: Fire Hazard From Carbon Adsorption Deodorizing Systems](#) Issued: May 1997: Activated carbon systems used to adsorb vapors for control of offensive odors may pose a fire hazard when used for certain types of substances, if proper procedures are not followed.

Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Advisories

- [Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Advisory: Ammonia](#) Issued: June 1990: This advisory recommends ways LEPCs and chemical facilities can minimize risks posed by the presence of ammonia in their communities.
- [Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Advisory: Swimming Pool Chemicals: Chlorine](#) Issued: June 1990: Many chemicals used at swimming pools may release chlorine. Careless storing, wetting, mixing, or the contamination of any of these chemicals or the systems used to feed them can cause fires, explosions, burns, and possibly the release of gaseous chlorine.
- [Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Advisory: Hydrogen Fluoride](#) Issued: June 1993: Hydrogen fluoride, a strong inorganic acid, is produced and used as a gas or liquid without water, or in a water solution. The anhydrous form is potentially more hazardous than hydrogen fluoride in dilute water solutions.

Chemical Safety Network

- [Chemical Safety Network: Community Safety Awards Program: Lake County, Indiana LEPC](#) Issued: October 1999: The Lake County, Indiana, Local Emergency Planning Committee has implemented a Community Safety Awards Program to recognize significant achievements by industry and municipalities in reducing risks to the public from chemical accidents.
- [Chemical Safety Network: Hazardous Materials Education: Carbon County, Pennsylvania LEPC](#) Issued: March 2000: The Carbon County, Pennsylvania, Local Emergency Planning Committee has developed educational programs to involve area school students in hazardous material issues.
- [Chemical Safety Network: Hazardous Materials Education: North Central Florida LEPC](#) Issued: March 2000: The North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee annually holds a Hazardous Materials Spill Prevention Week to educate the public about hazardous chemicals stored and used in their community.
- [Chemical Safety Network: How to Develop a Health Alert Network: Baton Rouge, Louisiana, LEPC](#) Issued: August 2000: The geographic location of the East Baton Rouge Parish makes it likely that natural disasters, such as floods, tornados, or hurricanes will occur. The region also has been declared a "High Risk" area for enemy attack.
- [Chemical Safety Network: How to Improve Safe Handling of Chemical Products: Sartomer Company, Exton, Pennsylvania](#) Issued: May 2001: The proper handling of chemicals during their entire life-cycle, product stewardship, is key to chemical safety. Sartomer assesses a customer's or distributor's ability to handle hazardous products safely by reviewing their environmental, health and safety practices and, if warranted, making recommendations for improvements.
- [Chemical Safety Network: How to Increase Public Awareness and Improve Emergency Notification: Beach Cities CAER \(Community Awareness and Emergency Response\)](#) Issued: July 2000: The Community Warning System awareness campaign was developed to teach Torrance residents how to identify a chemical release and how to respond should a chemical emergency occur.

- [Chemical Safety Network: How to Maintain Community Confidence: Eastman Kodak Company, Kodak Park, Rochester, N.Y.](#) Issued: September 2000: Over the years, eliminating the use of some highly hazardous substances, substituting less hazardous materials, and reducing the storage or use of hazardous materials has significantly reduced potential chemical hazards at the site.
- [Chemical Safety Network: Mentoring Program Enhances Safety Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania](#) Issued: September 1999: A previous accident spurred group to initiate mentoring program aimed at strengthening safety performance of new “start-up” businesses.
- [Chemical Safety Network: South Carolina Small Business Assistance Program RMP Air Modeling Project](#) Issued: June 1999: The South Carolina Small Business Assistance Program’s (SBAP) RMP Air Modeling Project helped participating small businesses and small municipalities complete their RMP Offsite Consequence Analysis.
- [Chemical Safety Network: The Lubrizol Corporation: New Chemicals Issues Assessment](#) Issued: May 2001: Lubrizol developed and implemented program called New Chemicals Issues Assessment, which helped bring a more consistent and formal review of the environmental, health, and safety issues associated with new chemicals early in the development cycle.
- [Chemical Safety Network: Work with your Local Fire Department to Enhance Community Safety: The Cary Company](#) Issued: April 2001: When the Cary Company decided to add a 140,000 square foot building at their Addison, Illinois, warehousing facility, company officials immediately turned to the local fire department for help. The partnership was beneficial to both groups.
- [Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission: Public Meeting Project](#) Issued: November 1999: The team had to work with top level management and engineers to open plant doors and let the public see first-hand how safe facility operations are; gain buy in to take a straight-forward approach to discussing worst-case scenarios; develop plain language presentations of worst-case scenario information; and help them understand how much public disclosure was allowed under the new law.

Topical Backgrounders

- [Topical Backgrounder: Chemical Safety in Your Community: EPA's New Risk Management Program](#)
- [Topical Backgrounder: Evaluating Chemical Hazards in the Community: Using RMP's Offsite Consequence Analysis](#)
- [Topical Backgrounder: How Safe Am I? Helping Communities Evaluate Chemical Risks](#): Journalists face a tough but important task in reporting new information about potential chemical accidents. Local coverage can help the public decide whether to ignore risks or demand better management.
- [Topical Backgrounder: New Ways to Prevent Chemical Incidents](#): The theory is that public knowledge will create public pressure, which will motivate companies to operate their plants more safely.

OSHA’s Heat Safety APPs

Courtesy of OSHA.gov

With temperatures rising across the nation, check out OSHA's Heat Safety Tool mobile app to calculate the Heat Index for your location and get reminders about how to prevent heat illness on the job.

The popular app has been downloaded by more than 72,000 people since its launch in 2011.

Available in English or Spanish on your smart phone, the app is one of many resources that OSHA is offering as part of its 2013 outreach campaign.



https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat_index/heat_app.html

RMP Facilities and Emergency Response Programs

Courtesy of US EPA Region 10 CEPP Newsletter May-June 2013



The EPA Risk Management Program (RMP) may require a facility that has a Program 2 or Program 3 process (see box below for details), to implement an emergency response program, consisting of an emergency response plan, emergency response equipment procedures, employee training, and procedures to ensure the program is up-to-date.

This requirement applies if your employees will respond to some releases involving regulated substances.

RMP Categories (Programs 1, 2 and 3)

The Risk Management Program (40 CFR 68) defines the activities sources must undertake to address the risks posed by regulated substances in covered processes. To ensure that individual processes are subject to appropriate requirements that match their size and the risks they may pose, EPA has classified them into three categories ("Programs"). Program 1 requirements apply to processes for which a worst case release, as evaluated in the hazard assessment, would not affect the public. These are sources or processes that have not had an accidental release that caused serious offsite consequences.

Remotely located sources and processes using listed flammables are primarily those eligible for this program. Program 2 requirements apply to less complex operations that do not involve chemical processing (e.g., retailers, propane users, non-chemical manufacturers, and other processes not regulated under OSHA's PSM Standard). Program 3 requirements apply to higher risk, complex chemical processing operations and to processes already subject to the OSHA PSM. The OSHA PSM Standard (29 CFR 1910.119) reflects the key elements that the petrochemical industry, trade associations, and engineering societies have deemed essential to safe management of hazardous substances for complex, chemical-processing operations. EPA has adopted OSHA's PSM requirements as the Program 3 prevention program, with only minor changes in terminology. With few exceptions, processes assigned to Program 3 are already subject to the OSHA PSM Standard; the remaining Program 3 processes are in industry sectors that have a significant accident history.

EPA recognizes that, in some cases (particularly for retailers and other small operations with few employees), it may not be appropriate for employees to conduct response operations for releases of regulated substances. For example, it would be inappropriate, and probably unsafe, for an ammonia retailer with only one full-time employee to expect that a tank fire could be handled without the help of the local fire department or other emergency responder. EPA does not intend to force such facilities to develop emergency response capabilities.



At the same time, you are responsible for ensuring effective emergency response to any releases at your facility. If your local public responders are not capable of providing such response, you must take steps to ensure that effective response is available (e.g., by hiring response contractors).

Non-responding Facilities (§ 68.90(b))

EPA has adopted a policy for non-responding facilities similar to that developed by OSHA in its Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) Standard (29 CFR 1910.120), which allows facilities to develop an emergency action plan to ensure employee safety, rather than a full-fledged emergency response plan. If your employees will not respond to accidental releases of regulated substances, then you need not comply with the emergency response plan and program requirements. Instead, you are simply required to coordinate with local response agencies to ensure that they will be prepared to respond to an emergency at your facility. This will help to ensure that your community has a strategy for responding to and mitigating the threat posed by a release of a regulated substance from your facility. To do so, you must ensure that you have set up a way to notify emergency responders when there is need for a response.

Coordination with local responders also entails the following steps:

- If you have a covered process with a regulated toxic, work with the local emergency planning entity to ensure that the facility is included in the community emergency response plan prepared under EPCRA regarding a response to a potential release.
- If you have a covered process with a regulated flammable, work with the local fire department regarding a response to a potential release.

What Is “Response”?

EPA interprets “response” to be consistent with the definition of response specified under OSHA’s HAZWOPER Standard. OSHA defines emergency response as “a response effort by employees from outside the immediate release area or by other designated responders ... to an occurrence which results, or is likely to result, in an uncontrolled release of a hazardous substance.” The key factor here is that responders are designated for such tasks by their employer. This definition excludes “responses to incidental releases of hazardous substances where the substance can be absorbed, neutralized, or otherwise controlled at the time of release by employees in the immediate release area, or by maintenance personnel” as well as “responses to releases of hazardous substances where there is no potential safety or health hazard (i.e., fire, explosion, or chemical exposure).”

However, due to the nature of the regulated substances subject to EPA’s rule, only the most minor incidents would be included in this exception.

In general, most activities will qualify as a response due to the immediacy of the dispersion of a toxic plume or spread of a fire, the volatilization of a spill, and the threat to people on and off site. As a result, if you will have your employees involved in any substantial way in responding to releases, you will need to develop an emergency response program.



Your emergency response procedures need only apply to “response” actions; other activities will be described in your maintenance and operating procedures. Although you do not need to describe these activities in your risk management plan, document your efforts and keep a record of:

- The emergency contact (i.e., name or organization and number) that you will call for a toxic or flammable release.
- The organization that you worked with on response procedures.

If you will respond to releases of regulated substances with your own employees, your emergency response program must consist of the following elements:

- An emergency response plan (maintained at the facility) that includes:
 - Procedures for informing the public and emergency response agencies about releases
 - Documentation of proper first aid and emergency medical treatment necessary to treat human exposures
 - Procedures and measures for emergency response
 - Procedures for using, inspecting, testing, and maintaining your emergency response equipment
 - Training for all employees in relevant procedures
- Procedures to review and update, as appropriate, the emergency response plan to reflect changes at the facility and ensure that employees are informed of changes.

If you choose to establish and maintain onsite emergency response capabilities, then you will be subject to the detailed provisions of the OSHA and EPA HAZWOPER Standard. HAZWOPER covers preparing an emergency response plan, employee training, medical monitoring of employees, recordkeeping, and other issues. Call your state or federal district OSHA office for more information on complying with the HAZWOPER Standard. State and local governments in states without a delegated OSHA program are subject to HAZWOPER under EPA's 40 CFR part 311.

The requirements for the emergency response program are intended to apply across all covered processes at a facility. Although certain elements of the program (e.g., how to use specific items of response equipment) may differ from one process to another, EPA does not intend or expect you to develop a separate emergency response program for each covered process.

With this in mind, you should realize that your emergency response program will probably apply to your entire facility, although technically it need only apply to covered processes. For example, a facility may have two storage tanks, one containing slightly more than a threshold quantity of a regulated substance and one with slightly less. The facility is likely to adopt the same response approach (e.g., procedures, equipment, and training) for releases whether or not the process is "covered." Similarly, a facility may have two adjacent flammable storage tanks, one containing a regulated substance above the threshold and the other containing another, and unlisted flammable. The facility is likely to adopt the same approach for releases whether or not the process is "covered."

The development of an emergency response program should be approached systematically. The following steps outline a systematic approach that can serve as the framework for the program development process in each of these cases. Following these initial steps will allow you to conduct the rest of the process more efficiently.

1) Form an emergency response program team

The team should consist of employees with varying degrees of emergency response responsibilities, as well as personnel with expertise from each functional area of your facility. You should consider including persons from the following departments or areas:

- Maintenance
- Operations or line personnel
- Upper and line management
- Legal
- Fire and hazmat response
- Environmental, health, and safety affairs
- Training
- Security
- EPCRA section 302 emergency coordinator (if one exists)
- Public relations
- Personnel

Of course, the membership of the team will need to be more or less extensive depending on the scope of the emergency response program. A three-member team may be appropriate for a small facility with a couple of process operators cross-trained as fire responders, while a facility with its own hazmat team and environmental affairs department may need a dozen representatives.

2) Collect relevant facility documents

Members of the development team should collect and review all of the following:

- Site plans
- Existing emergency response plans and procedures
- Submissions to the LEPC under EPCRA sections 302 and 303
- Hazard evaluation and release modeling information
- Hazard communication and emergency response training
- Emergency drill and exercise programs
- After-action reports and response critiques
- Mutual aid agreements

3) Identify existing programs to coordinate efforts

The team should identify any related programs from the following sources:

- Corporate- and industry-sponsored safety, training, and planning efforts
- Federal, state, and local government safety, training, and planning efforts

4) Determine the status of each required program element

Using the information collected, you should assess whether each required program element is:

- In place and sufficient to meet the requirements of RMP (part 68)
- In place, but not sufficient to meet the requirements of RMP (part 68), or
- Not in place.

This examination will shape the nature of your efforts to complete the emergency response program required under the Risk Management Program. For example, if you are already in compliance with OSHA’s HAZWOPER Standard, you have probably satisfied most, if not all, of the requirements for an emergency response program.
Source: General Risk Management Program Guidance, EPA 555-B-04-001, March 2009

[For More information on the Risk Management Program and Emergency Response from EPA Region 8, visit:](#)

[Chapter 8: Emergency Response Program \(PDF\)](#)
[40 CFR Part 68 Emergency Response Regulations](#)
[OSHA 29 CFR 1910.38, Emergency Action Plans](#)
[OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120, Emergency Response Plans](#)

Introducing the New RRT6 Website

The Regional Response Team in Region 6 has recently updated the team’s website. In addition to resources regularly used by the RRT6, the new website includes useful preparedness resources for LEPCs:



- Laws / Rules
- Shelter-In-Place outreach Materials
- Handbooks
- Updates
- Sample LEPC By-Laws
- Guidance Documents
- State-Specific Information
- ER Reviews

Please visit <http://www.rrt6.org/> to tap into these great emergency planning resources.



Region 6 Regional Response Team

State of Arkansas • State of Louisiana • State of New Mexico • State of Oklahoma • State of Texas • Environmental Protection Agency • U.S. Coast Guard •
Department of Commerce / NOAA • Department of Energy • Department of Health & Human Services • Department of Interior • Department of Justice •
Department of Labor • Department of Transportation • DHS / Federal Emergency Management Agency • General Services Administration •
Nuclear Regulatory Commission • Department of State • Department of Defense • Department of Agriculture

FACT SHEET: Executive Order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security

On August 1, the President signed an Executive Order to improve the safety and security of chemical facilities and reduce the risks of hazardous chemicals to workers and communities. Chemicals and the facilities that manufacture, store, distribute and use them are essential to our economy. However, incidents such as the devastating explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas in April are tragic reminders that the handling and storage of chemicals present serious risks that must be addressed. While the cause of the Texas explosion is under investigation, we can take some common sense steps now to improve safety and security and build on Federal agencies' ongoing work to reduce the risks associated with hazardous chemicals.

The Executive Order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security directs the Federal Government to:

- improve operational coordination with state and local partners;
- enhance Federal agency coordination and information sharing;
- modernize policies, regulations and standards; and
- work with stakeholders to identify best practices.

Improving Operational Coordination with State and Local Partners

Federal, state, local, and tribal governments have different responsibilities in addressing risks associated with chemical facilities, including response planning for potential emergencies. To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of risk management and response measures, the Executive Order charges Federal agencies with improving coordination and information sharing with state and local governments. For example, the Executive Order requires Federal agencies to develop a plan within 90 days that identifies ways to ensure State homeland security advisors, State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs), Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (TERCs), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), Tribal Emergency Planning Committees (TEPCs), State regulators, and first responders have ready access to key information in a useful format to prevent, prepare for, and respond to chemical incidents.

Enhancing Federal Coordination and Information Sharing

Programs designed to improve the safety and security of chemical facilities through regulations, information reporting requirements, site inspections, and voluntary partnerships are managed by multiple Federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Labor (DOL), and the Department of Justice (DOJ). To improve the collective performance of these Federal programs, the Executive Order calls upon Federal agencies to initiate innovative approaches for working together on a broad range of activities, such as identification of high-risk facilities, inspections, enforcement, and incident investigation and follow up. For example, the Executive Order requires that the Federal agencies deploy a regional pilot program that will validate best practices and test innovative new methods for Federal interagency collaboration on chemical facility safety and security. Additionally, Federal agencies are specifically directed to modernize the collection and sharing of chemical facility information to maximize the effectiveness of risk reduction efforts and reduce duplicative efforts.

Modernizing Policies, Regulations and Standards

The Executive Order directs Federal agencies to work with stakeholders to improve chemical safety and security through agency programs, private sector initiatives, Federal guidance, standards, and regulations. For example, to reduce risks associated with ammonium nitrate, agencies will examine new options to address the safe and secure storage, handling, and sale of this explosive chemical. Agencies will also determine if additional chemicals should be covered by existing Federal regulatory programs, such as EPA's Risk Management Program (RMP), DHS's Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATs), and DOL's Process Safety Management Standards (PSM). In addition, agencies will consider whether to pursue an independent, high-level assessment of the U.S. approach to chemical facility risk management to identify additional recommendations for all levels of government and industry to reduce the risk of catastrophic chemical incidents in the future.

Working with Stakeholders to Identify Best Practices

Many chemical facilities have taken steps to create safer work environments and reduce risks of chemical incidents to nearby communities. The Executive Order directs key Federal agencies to convene a wide range of interested stakeholders, including representatives from industry, state, local, and tribal governments, non-governmental organizations, and the first responder community, to identify and share successes to date and best practices to reduce safety and security risks in the production and storage of potentially harmful chemicals, including through the use of safer alternatives, adoption of best practices, and potential public-private partnerships.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE NUMBERS

Arkansas Dept. of Emergency Management	800-322-4012
Louisiana State Police	877-925-6595
New Mexico State Police	505-827-9126
Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality	800-522-0206
Texas Environmental Hotline	800-832-8224

National Response Center	800-424-8802
EPA Region 6	866-372-7745
CHEMTREC	800-424-9300



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